

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Child Care Resource and Referral Services, Professional Registry and Quality Improvement

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education (OSSE/ECE) is responsible for coordinating early childhood education services for District of Columbia children and their families.

Request for Applications:

Current research shows that early childhood is a critical developmental stage that impacts life-long learning. Access to high-quality early childhood programs during this stage can significantly enhance growth in all developmental domains – cognitive, emotional, physical and social.

One of the key quality building initiatives in the District of Columbia is the *Going for the Gold* Tiered Rates Reimbursement System. This incentive-based Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) allows subsidized early childhood programs to move through three (3) elevated payment tiers that reflect the degree to which programs meet high-quality standards.

The OSSE/ECE seeks assistance in providing training and technical assistance to help early childhood programs move through the quality tiers and achieve national accreditation, developing and maintaining a professional registry to support the early childhood workforce and managing a child care resource and referral program to educate and engage consumers.

Funds in the amount of \$475,000 are available to award one (1) grant. Funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* of 2009.

Applications are requested from organizations licensed to do business in the District of Columbia with extensive knowledge of national program accreditation standards for all early childhood sectors, relationship-based technical assistance, QRIS models, Environment Rating Scales and the varying needs of early childhood programs in the District of Columbia. Applicants must also have prior experience working with cross-sector early childhood systems, knowledge of the District of Columbia's demographic make-up, and familiarity with the landscape and relevant resources necessary to further the objectives of this grant.

Important Dates:

The RFA will be available on **Friday, August 20, 2010**. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grants Services website (www.opgs.dc.gov) at the District Grants Clearinghouse link. Applications may also be obtained from Ms. Helen Jordan, Management Analyst for ECE, 717 14th Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Please call (202) 727-1839. The deadline for application submission is **September 7, 2010** at 3:00 p.m. DST.

The Pre-Application Conference will be held on **Monday, August 30, 2010**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 717 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005. For preparation purposes, interested parties planning to attend the Pre-Application Conference are requested to RSVP to Ms. Angelia McDuffie at (202) 727-1839 or angelia.mcduffie@dc.gov.